Leprosy cases in these four States/UTs are showing a consistent decline. During the period 31st March, 2006 to 31st July, 2006 the new cases detected were 1134 in Delhi, 12990 in Uttar Pradesh, 5094 in West Bengal and 7912 in State of Bihar. The cases on record as on 31st July, 2006 were 3383 in Delhi, 23729 in Uttar Pradesh, 10641 in West Bengal and 13138 in Bihar.

On comparing this data with corresponding period in 2005, there is a reduction in newly detected leprosy cases as well as in cases which are on record as on 31st July as shown in the table below:

State	New cases detected from 31st March to 31st July, 05	New cases detected from 31st March to 31st July, 06	Cases on record as on 31st July, 05	Cases on record on as 31st July, 06
Delhi	1344	1134	4469	3383
U.P.	14004	12990	30386	23729
Bihar	10371	7912	17332	13138
W.B.	5884	5094	16161	10641

However, under the National Leprosy Eradication Programme (NLEP) efforts are being continued for further reducing the burden of leprosy through effective implementation of its activities. To increase the supervision and monitoring component of the programme, all the States were instructed to observe the month of September and October, 2006 as Supervision and Monitoring month.

Spurious blood testing kits

332. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the news reports highlighting circulation of contaminated blood, especially by the blood banks of West Bengal Government Health Service and about use of blood testing kits of spurious quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the victim recipients of contaminated blood transfusions related to the defective test kits;

(d) the action taken, if any, for fixing accountability for the same, including compensating the victims; and

(e) the details of actions initiated, if any, for cautioning the health authorities across the country with a view to eliminating use of defective kits and contaminated blood?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received from State of West Bengal regarding alleged supply of expired and sub-standard blood testing kits by M/s Monozyme Ltd., Secunderabad. The matter was investigated by the Government of West Bengal, FIR has been filed and presently the matter is *sub judice*.

(c) There are no reports of identification of any person as a victim recipient of contaminated blood transfusion due to these defective test kits.

(d) and (e) An investigation was made by the West Bengal State AIDS Control Society and a FIR was lodged with Kolkata police. On the basis of FIR, arrests have been made by the police. Further police investigation is going on and balance kits have been seized by the police.

In view of the complaint received from West Bengal State AIDS Control Society, all State AIDS Control Societies have been directed to suspend proposals if any, to procure from Monozyme India Ltd. and to strictly follow guidelines and procedures laid down. Further, the Drugs Controller General (India) has been asked to investigate into the matter and take appropriate action under rules. All States have also been reminded of essential checks during the procurement procedure, use of kits and consumables and records to be maintained for diagnostic test performed in the blood banks in States/ UTs in the country.

Defective medical equipments in AIIMS

†333. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the medical instruments in various departments of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.